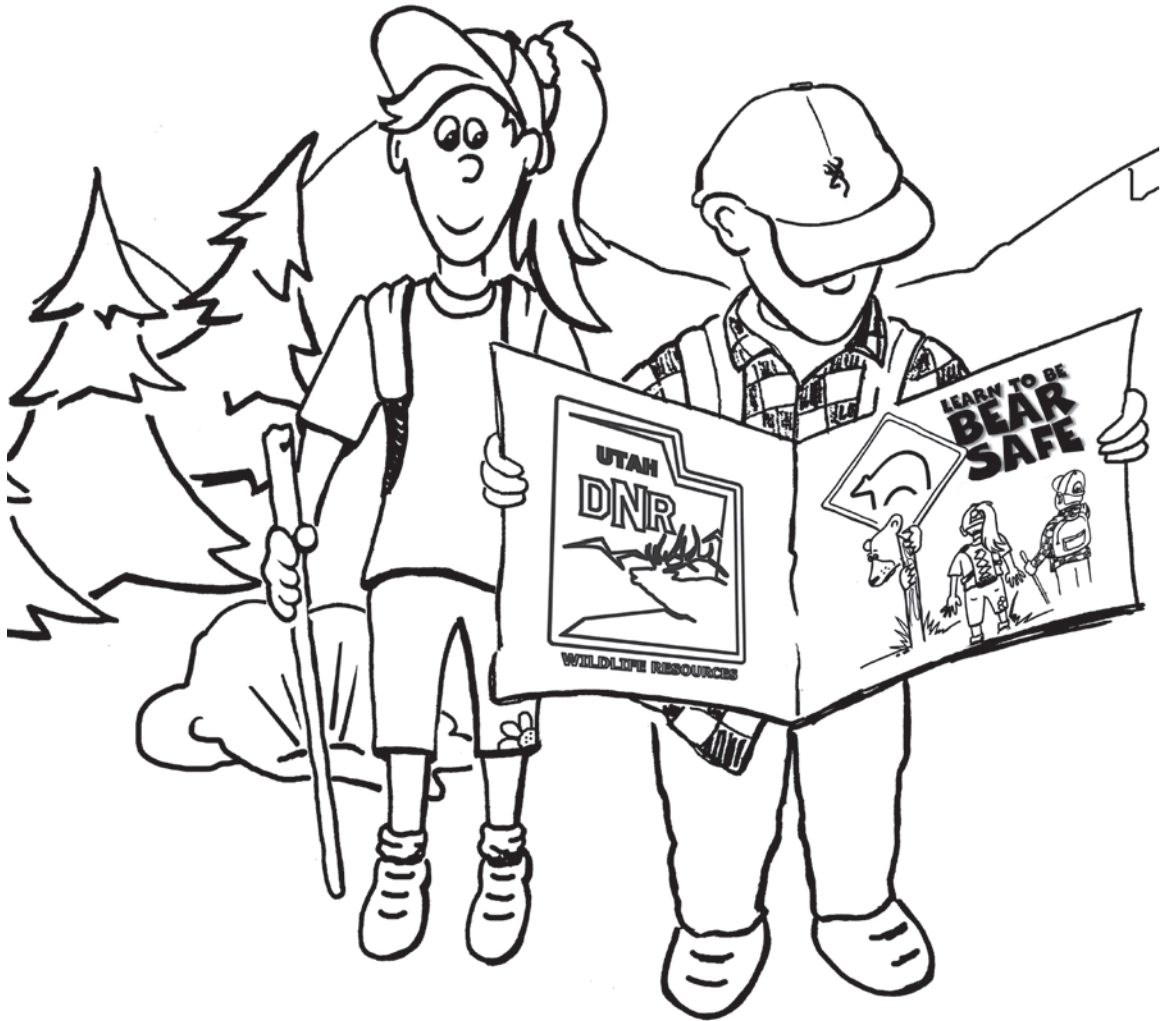


# LEARN TO BE **BEAR SAFE**



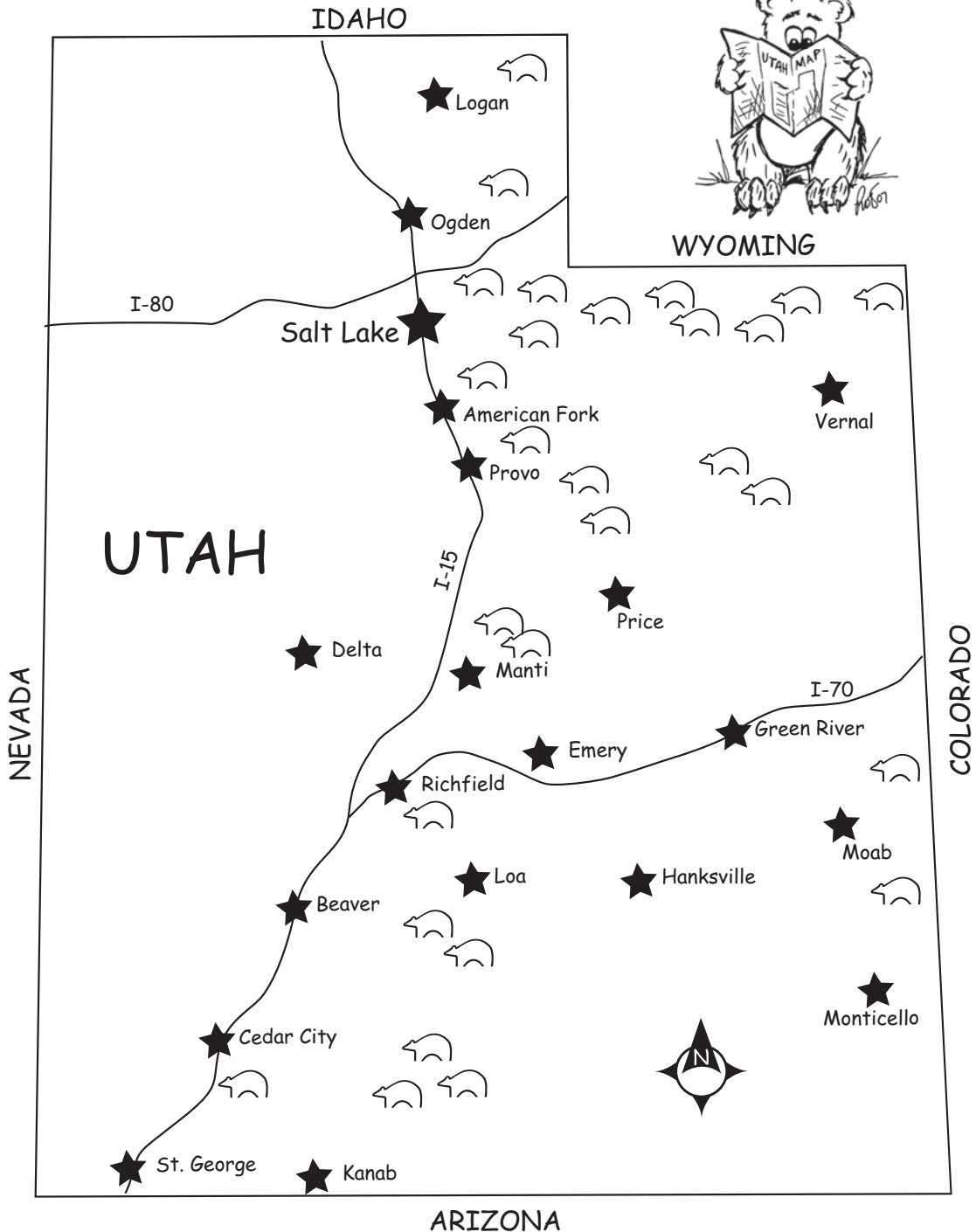
**Wildlife Education Program • Utah Division of Wildlife Resources**

# UTAH IS BEAR COUNTRY



If you visit the mountains of Utah, you have visited bear country. Usually people and bears can share the same space without problems, but not always. Because people and bears like to spend time in the same areas it is important to be careful in bear country. With a few simple tips, people and bears can share the same forests and both can stay safe.

# WHERE ARE BEARS IN UTAH?



# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BLACK BEARS AND BROWN BEARS

## BLACK BEAR

No Shoulder Hump

Tall  
Pointed Ears

Straight Face

1 1/2" Long

Front Claw



Front Paw Tracks

Short Claws

## BROWN BEAR

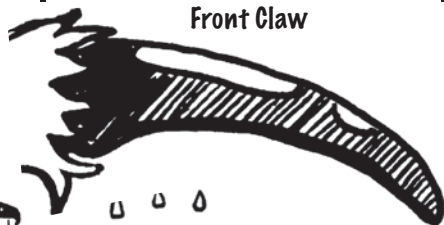
Shoulder Hump

Short  
Rounded  
Ears

Dished  
Face

2-4" Long

Front Claw



Front Paw Tracks

Long  
Claws

There are many different types of bears in the world. In Utah, there used to be two types: grizzlies, or brown bears, and black bears. Use the information above to learn the differences between brown bears (sometimes called grizzly bears) and black bears.

# OLD EPHRAIM



The last known grizzly bear in Utah was a big one named Old Ephraim. Old Ephraim roamed from Malad, Idaho to Weber County in Utah during the early 1900s. He was known for having only three toes on one foot, which made his tracks easy to recognize. Besides being large he was smart and avoided ranchers for years.

In 1911, Frank Clark, a partner in the Ward Clark sheep Company spent his first summer in the Cache National Forest near Logan, Utah. It wasn't long before he became familiar with the destructive force known as Old Ephraim. Frank was very determined to get the bear. The two would have a strategic battle for several more years. Old Ephraim seemed to have an acquired skill for avoiding traps, which frustrated Frank and towards the last years of his life, Old Ephraim became bolder in his attacks on livestock. Eventually fate would bring them together for one final showdown. In Frank Clark's words, this is what happened:

"This country was infested with bears at that time. Many of them were sheep killers. I know of them killing as many as 150 head of sheep in one summer from one herd.

Old Ephraim was not the greedy killer that some bears seem to be. He would usually kill one sheep, pick it up and carry it into the more remote sections of the mountain and devour it.

I began in 1914 to trap for him, but it was not until 1923 that I caught him. He had a large pool scooped out in a little canyon and at least once a week he would come there to wallow in the pool he had made. I set my trap in this pool thinking I would catch him, but every time I set it and the bear visited the pool, he would 'pertly' pick it up and set it on the side of the pool. One time I came back and found the bear had dug another pool just below the old one.

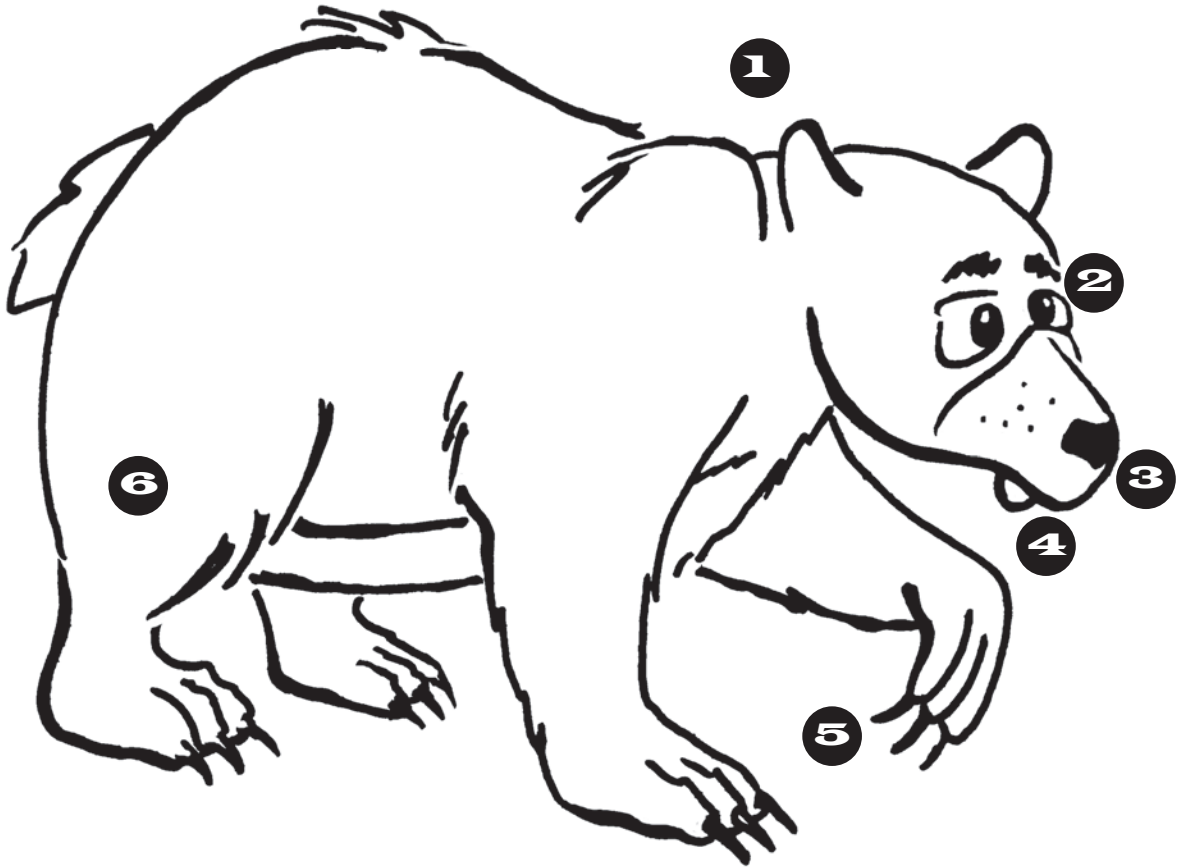
I remember well the night of Old Ephraim's undoing. I had set the trap in his new pool, stirred up the mud so that it would set well on the trap. August 21 was a beautiful cool night and after supper I lighted my pipe and set my gaze at the stars.

After bedding down for the night and sleeping for some time, I was suddenly awakened by the most unearthly sound I have ever heard. After the first cry, I noticed that the grumbling of this bear stopped and then after a short time, a roar heard again, echoed from canyon wall to canyon wall. I quickly slipped on my shoes, didn't bother to put on pants, grabbed my rifle and started along the trail. I finally realized that I had caught either Old Ephraim or another bear and soon heard the noise in the willows along the creek bed below me. After it had passed, I slipped down and along the trail in the bright moon light and I could see the tracks of the big bear as he went down the stream. I followed the noise slowly down the creek until I got near the point where my camp was and there came rushing out of the creek bottom the giant form of Old Ephraim walking on his hind feet. He was carrying on this front foot the large trap that weighed 27 pounds and the 15 feet of log chain neatly wrapped around his right forearm. As he came towards me, it chilled me to the very bone and for several paces I didn't even attempt to shoot. Finally, more out of fear than any other passion, I opened up with my small 25-35 caliber rifle and pumped six shots into him. He fell at my feet dead, and as I looked at the giant form of Old Ephraim I suddenly became sorry that I had killed this giant bear.

Old Ephraim's body was buried near my camp site and remained there until it was unearthed and his skull sent to the Smithsonian Institute."

Old Ephraim's skull has since been returned to Utah State University Merrill Library in Logan, Utah. You can visit the monument at Old Ephraim's grave in Logan Canyon.

# WHAT IS A BLACK BEAR?



## USE THE WORDS BELOW TO FILL IN THE BLANKS

Vision  
Claws  
Teeth  
Smell  
Legs  
Ears

1. Bears have small \_\_\_\_\_, but their hearing is very good.
2. Bears can see quite well. They even have color \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Bears have a very sensitive nose and a keen sense of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Bears have strong jaws and sharp \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Bears have long sharp \_\_\_\_\_ which are good for digging.
6. Bears have powerful \_\_\_\_\_ and can run very fast.

(Answers on page 20)



## **"BLACK" BEARS ARE COLORFUL**



Not all black bears are black. Some are light brown, some are dark brown with a light face. Other colors include blonde, cinnamon and even white. Color each of the bears above a different color. Though the color may vary, their fur is thick, coarse and long. The heavy winter coat will be shed in the spring.

# BEAR ANTICS



Searching for food



Playing



Fishing and cooling in water



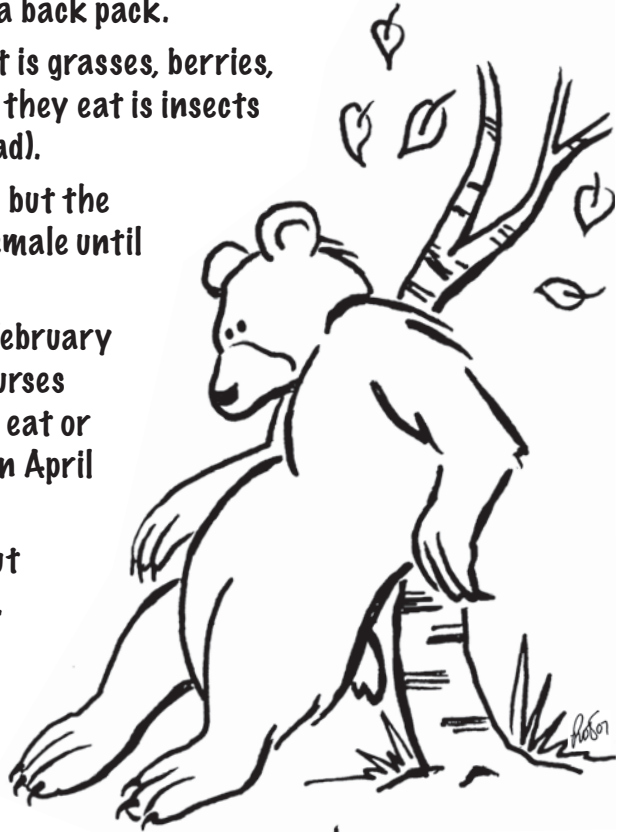
Sleeping and sunning

Bears do a lot of the same things outdoors that people do. Usually there are no problems. But if bears searching for food or shelter discover they can easily get food from people, they can cause damage to homes and property and sometimes even hurt people.



# BEAR FACTS

- Bears have a very good sense of smell. They can smell a person more than a mile away. They can also detect the smell of food on clothing that has been carried in a back pack.
- Roughly 90% of a black bear's diet is grasses, berries, nuts and roots. Most of the meat they eat is insects and carrion (animals they find dead).
- Black bears mate in June and July, but the embryo does not implant in the female until she enters the her den in October.
- Cubs are born in mid-January or February inside the den. The mother bear nurses her cubs, even though she will not eat or drink until after leaving her den in April or May.
- Cubs are born hairless and without teeth. They weigh about 8 ounces.
- During the late summer and early fall months, bears are busy putting on fat. An active bear can eat as much as 20,000 calories a day. This fat reserve will sustain them during the winter.
- During the winter in their dens, bears may go 200 days without eating, drinking, urinating or defecating.
- Male bears are called boars. A large boar can weigh 400 pounds. Female bears are called sows. They are usually smaller than the boars.
- Black bear claws are well adapted for climbing trees. They climb trees to avoid danger, look around and find food. They have to back down a tree tail first to get out of the tree.



# HIKING IN BEAR COUNTRY



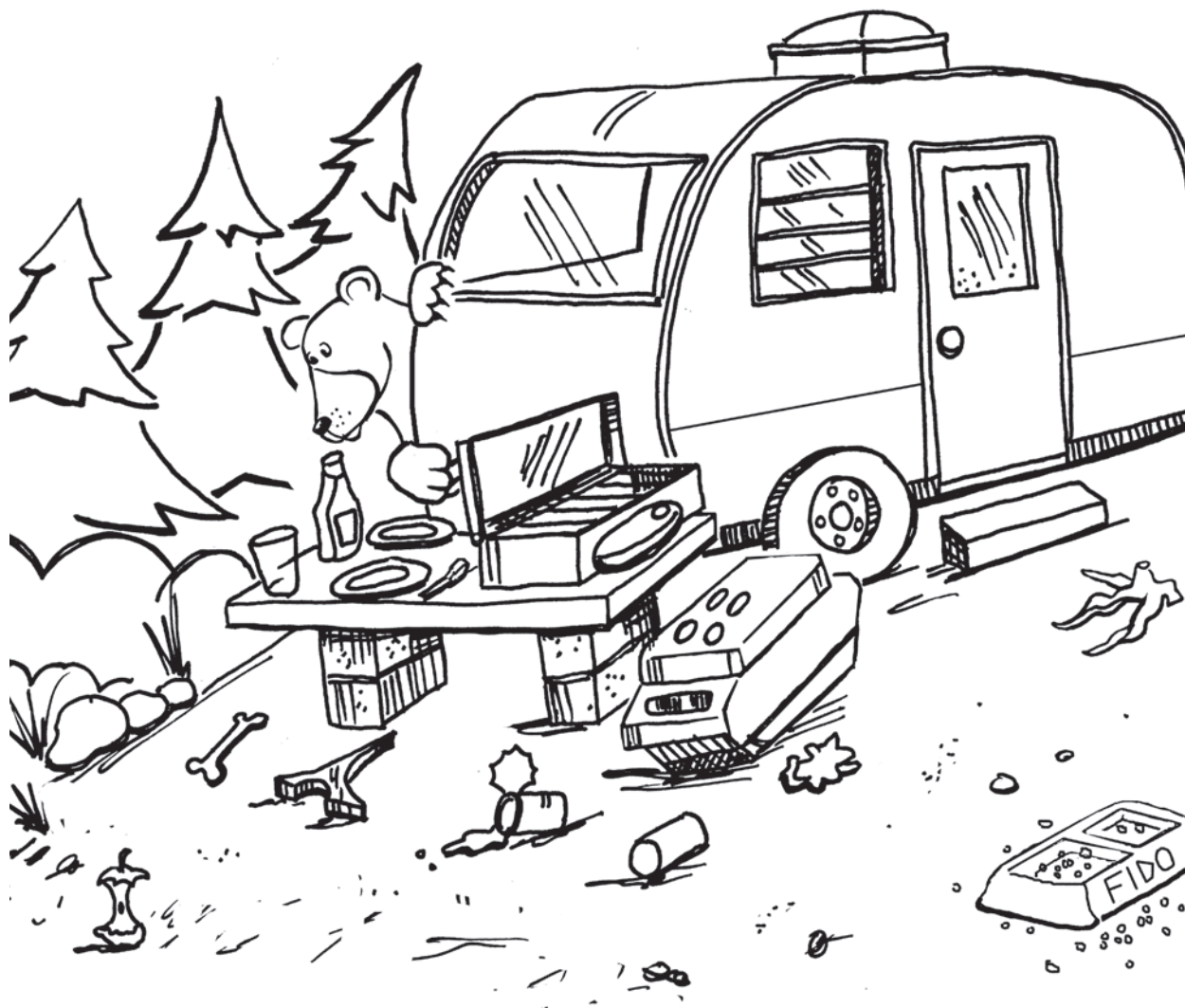
**When hiking in bear country, it is important to look around. Stay on established trails to avoid disturbing a bear. Make noise, sing or talk while hiking so you do not surprise a bear. Don't hike alone. It's best to hike in groups of four or more people. Don't be afraid in bear country, but be careful and alert. Bears will usually avoid you.**

# KEEP AWAY FROM BEARS AND CUBS



Never get too close to bears. Stay at least 100 yards away from bears especially from cubs. The mother bear is never too far away. If you approach a cub, it will make her angry. **NEVER FEED BEARS! A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR!** A bear should never learn that humans are a source of food.

# DIRTY CAMPS ATTRACT BEARS

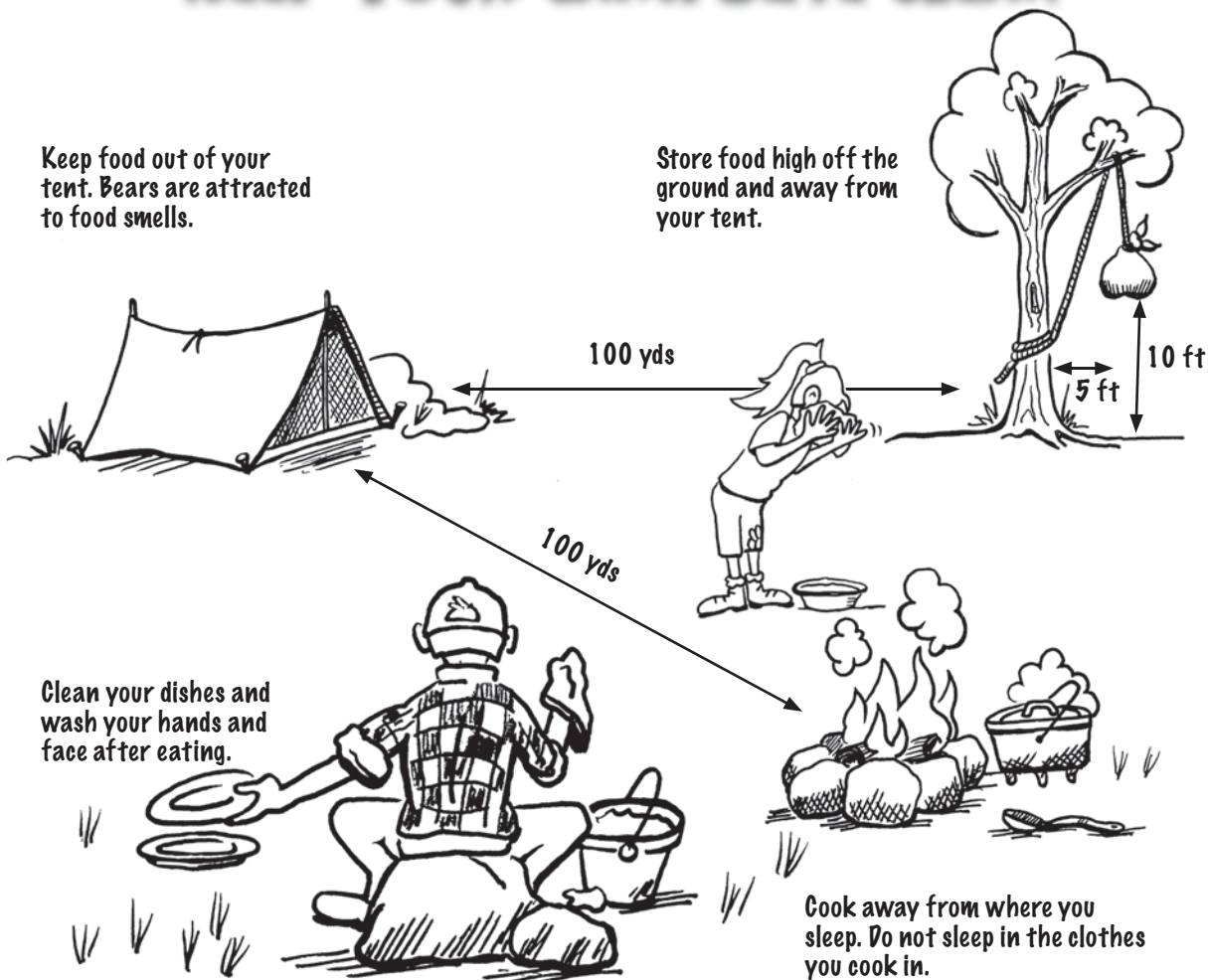


There are many things people can do to prevent problems with bears. Look at the picture above and circle all of the things you find that might attract bears. (Answers on page 20).

# KEEP YOUR CAMPSITE CLEAN

Keep food out of your tent. Bears are attracted to food smells.

Store food high off the ground and away from your tent.



Clean your dishes and wash your hands and face after eating.

Cook away from where you sleep. Do not sleep in the clothes you cook in.

A clean campsite can keep you safe and give bears little reason to visit. Bears have a keen sense of smell. Cook away from where you sleep and wash your dishes. Keep yourself and your clothes clean and odor free. Food and garbage should be suspended 10 ft. off the ground or stored in bear proof containers. Remember to pack everything out. Don't burn or bury your trash.



# BAD BEARS AND WILDLIFE OFFICERS



There is no need to be alarmed just seeing a bear. But, when a bear damages property, threatens people or becomes a nuisance, a wildlife officer may need to trap it and move it to another area. Sometimes a troublesome bear can be marked with paint or an ear tag. If the bear returns and continues to be a problem, it will likely be destroyed. This is because bears that link food with people have the potential to hurt people. **REMEMBER, A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR.**



# **STAYING BEAR SAFE TIPS**

## **WHEN CAMPING OR BACKPACKING:**

- 1) Keep your campsite clean.
- 2) Store food and other scented items like shampoo in a bear safe container or in the trunk of your car.
- 3) Don't sleep in the same clothes you wore while you cooked and ate your food.
- 4) Backpackers should hang their food at least ten feet off the ground where bears can't reach it.
- 5) When backpacking have your sleeping area 100 yards away from where you cook and don't keep any food in your tent.
- 6) Pack out your trash when you leave, don't burn or bury it.
- 7) Do not hike alone, and make noise on the trail so you don't surprise a bear.

## **IF YOU HAVE A HOME IN THE MOUNTAINS:**

- 1) Store pet food and birdseed in airtight containers in your garage or a locked shed.
- 2) Bring your pet's food and water bowls in at night.
- 3) Keep your garbage out of sight and smell of bears. Use bear-proof containers and don't put your trash out until nearly time for pickup.
- 4) Keep your barbecue grill clean and free of food smells.

# IF YOU HAPPEN TO MEET A BEAR



Seeing a bear in the wild can be a great experience. You should not try to get too close. If you accidentally do, stay calm. Do not turn and run. If you do the bear may chase you. Face the bear, but avoid eye contact. Slowly back away and give the bear a chance to get away from you.

# **BE CALM, BACK AWAY, DON'T RUN**



The bear may come closer to get a better look at you. A bear may also stand up or try to walk around you and pick up your scent. Help the bear figure out that you are a person by talking in a normal voice and slowly waving your arms as you cautiously back up. Do not turn and run.

# IF ATTACKED DEFEND YOURSELF



Pepper spray can be an effective deterrent for bears. Use it if you have it.

**Remember, do not turn and run. Always face the bear. Back away and give it a chance to get away. If the bear charges or attacks, be aggressive. Use sticks, rocks or other objects to fight back. If you have pepper spray and are trained to use it, pepper spray can be an effective last resort deterrent for bears.**

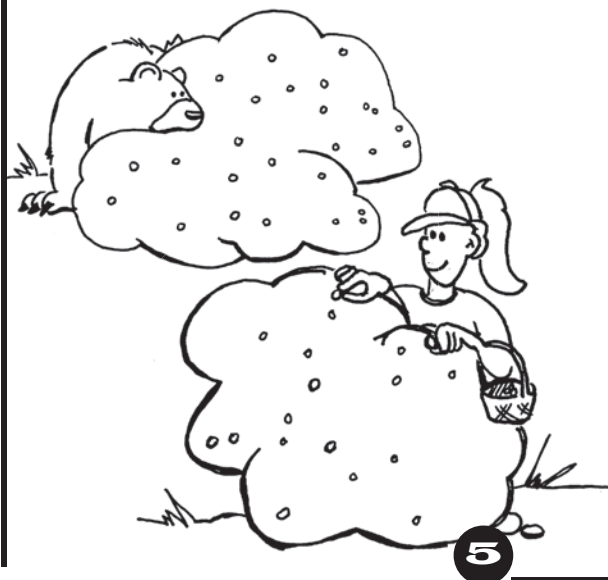
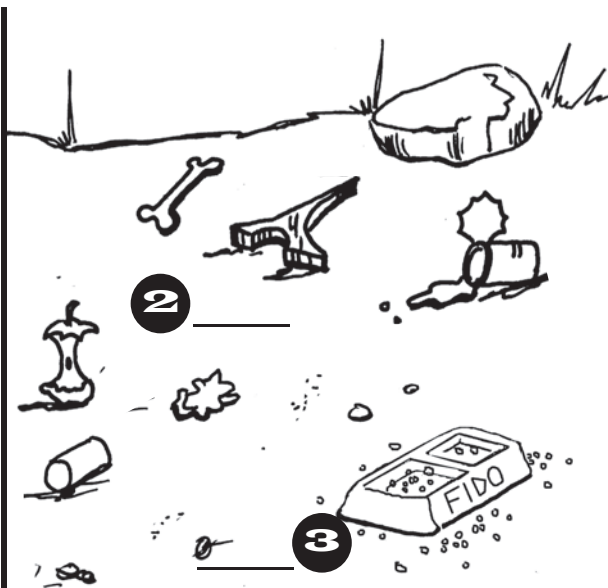
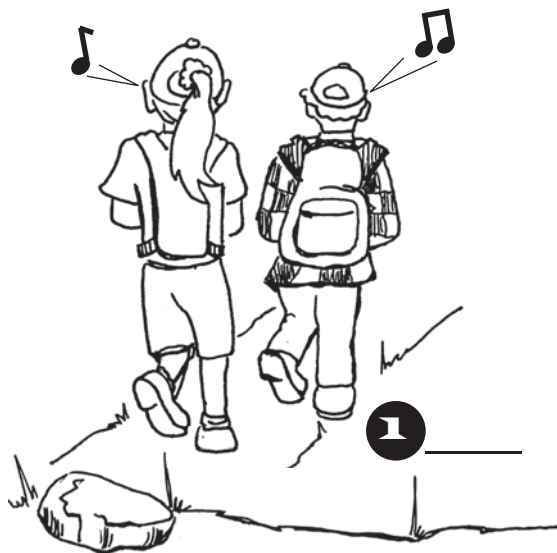
# REPORT PROBLEM BEARS TO WILDLIFE OFFICERS



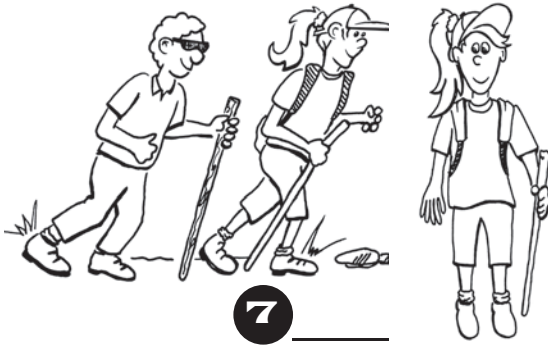
Because many people will share the area you camp in, report unusual or threatening bear activity to the local wildlife officer or forest ranger. It will help them keep both the bear and other people safe.

# RIGHT AND WRONG

Pictured below are a few things you may encounter in the woods. Put an "R" by what is being done right and a "W" by what is being done wrong.







Answers on page 21



# REVIEWING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Fill in the boxes below with letters of the missing words. Use the numbers to guide you. Then read down the darker boxes for a hidden message.

1. The only species of bear in Utah is the \_\_\_\_\_ bear.

2. When you hike, talk, sing and make \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Black bears can be black, \_\_\_\_\_, cinnamon or even white.

4. Black bears have a very keen sense of \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Black bears have small \_\_\_\_\_ but they can hear well.

6. If you meet a bear, don't \_\_\_\_\_.

7. When camping, don't \_\_\_\_\_ in the same clothes that you wore while cooking and eating.

8. You should always stay \_\_\_\_\_ from bear cubs.

9. To help keep bears out of trouble, store your \_\_\_\_\_ out of sight and smell of bears.

10. If attacked by a black bear, \_\_\_\_\_ yourself by fighting back.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

(Answers on page 21)

## ANSWERS

- Page 10

What is a Black Bear?

1. ears

2. vision

3. smell

4. teeth

5. claws

6. legs
- Fishes not washed. Food cooked and eaten

too close to the camper

-Cooking stove left out

-Cooler left out and on the ground

-Food scraps and trash left out

-Pet food left out

# WORD SEARCH

C	A	L	M	H	H	C	T	A	W
L	B	C	S	L	I	A	R	T	A
E	D	S	W	T	E	K	E	R	E
A	B	L	A	C	K	B	E	A	R
N	V	L	L	F	U	G	S	S	A
C	K	O	C	E	E	B	Z	H	N
A	H	J	I	E	W	A	S	H	E
M	A	P	K	D	I	G	L	M	P
P	S	M	E	L	L	S	N	Q	O
N	O	I	S	E	G	R	O	W	L

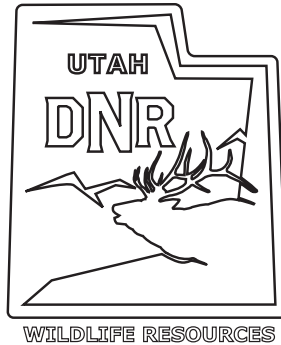
AVOID  
BEAR  
BLACK  
CALM  
CAMP  
CLAWS  
CLEAN  
CUBS

DIG  
FEED  
GROWL  
HIKES  
MAP  
NOISE  
OPEN  
AREA

SAFE  
SMELLS  
TALK  
TRAILS  
TRASH  
TREES  
WASH  
WATCH

## ANSWERS

- Page 18-19
1. "R." Stay on trail and make noise.  
2. "W." Do not leave food or trash out.  
3. "W." Do not leave pet food out.  
4. "R." Wash dishes. Be clean of food smells.  
5. "W." Be alert when picking berries.  
6. "W." Do not hike alone.  
7. "R." Hike in groups. Stay on trails.  
8. "W." Explore open areas.  
9. "R." Keep a clean camp. Store food properly.  
10. "W." Do not run from bears.
- Page 20
1. black  
2. noise  
3. brown  
4. smell  
5. ears  
6. run  
7. sleep  
8. away  
9. food  
10. defend  
Hidden  
Message "Be  
Bear Safe"



## **UTAH WILDLIFE RESOURCES OFFICES**

Salt Lake Office  
1594 W. North Temple, Ste. 2110  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116  
(801) 538-4700

Northeastern Region Office  
152 East 100 North, Ste. #9  
Vernal, UT 84078  
(435) 781-9453

Central Region Office  
1115 N. Main St.  
Springville, UT 84663  
(801) 491-5678

Southern Region Office  
1470 N. Airport Rd., Ste. #1  
Cedar City, UT 84720  
(435) 865-6100

Northern Region Office  
515 East 5300 South  
Ogden, UT 84405  
(801) 476-2740

Southeastern Region Office  
319 North Carbonville Rd., Ste. A  
Price, UT 84501  
(435) 636-0260

For more information on Utah's black bears, visit the website below:

# **WILDLIFE.UTAH.GOV**

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